

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9784

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PFOR, IN
SUBJ: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: STATE 157966

1. WE BELIEVE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PROGRAM CAN BE FAIRLY SIMPLE. WE WOULD PROPOSE AN INFORMAL BRIEFING ON INDIA AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE AFTER A LATE BREAKFAST. AT NOON EMBASSY AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ABOUT THE FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AT THE EMBASSY CONFERENCE ROOM (NEXT DOOR TO THE ROOSEVELT HOUSE). WE WOULD RESERVE LUNCH FOR THE GOI IF IT WISHES TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. WE WOULD NOT PROPOSE THIS BUT WE ANTICIPATE THE GOI MAY. OTHERWISE, LUNCH WOULD BE PRIVATE AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE. IN THE AFTERNOON WE SHALL SCHEDULE CALLS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE FINANCE MINISTER. UNFORTUNATELY THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON THAT DATE. AT ABOUT SIX IN THE EVENING WE PLAN A MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN AND INDIAN PRESS. WE WOULD NOT MAKE THIS A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE BUT WOULD INVITE THOSE CORRESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. IN THE EVENING THE AMBASSADOR PLANS A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO WHICH HE WILL INVITE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OFFICIALS OF THE GOI.

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2. WE BELIEVE THE GOI WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ABOUT THE WORLD VIEW OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SUBJECTS RELATED TO INDIA. THE INDIANS WILL BE AWARE THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY IS THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WHO WILL HAVE VISITED INDIA AND THEY WILL

LOOK TO HIM TO ELABORATE THE SPECIAL VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE INTERESTED IN US RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, A PROGRESS REPORT ON US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN (WHICH THEY THINK MAY HAVE BEEN DOWNGRADED FROM DEMILITARIZATION TO PRESERVATION OF THE STATUS QUO), US VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT PROTECT THEM, OUR VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND, IN A GENERAL WAY, THE PRESIDENT'S POLICIES ON ARMS TRANSFERS. WITH THE FINANCE MINISTER, WE WOULD ADD CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE; THE FINANCE MINISTER WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECTS OF RESOURCE TRANSFERS AND LONG TERM INCREASE IN LDC EXPORTS.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO PROBE DEEPLY INTO ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIA, THE GOI WILL BE LOOKING TO HIM FOR INDICATIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US ATTACHES TO INDIA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH INDIA. WE BELIEVE THE CONCEPTS SET FORTH BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON IN HIS STATEMENT BEFORE THE US TRADE POLICY SEMINAR AT THE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 20 AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS IN HIS STATEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN MARCH COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY BE SET FORTH BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPUTY SECRETARY IN HIS ORAL PRESENTATION.

4. OUR SINGLE OBJECTIVE FOR THIS VISIT WOULD BE TO CONVEY TO THE INDIANS OUR REGARD AND CONCERN FOR INDIA AND FOR THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH INDIA PLAYS BOTH IN SOUTH ASIA AND IN THE WORLD. THE INDIANS HAVE NOTED THAT SOUTH ASIA WAS OMITTED FROM MENTION IN THE SECRETARY'S SO-CALLED ASIAN SPEECH IN NEW YORK AND HAVE WONDERED WHAT CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH ASIA IN US CALCULATIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN. WE HOPE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CAN PROVIDE SOME ANSWER TO THE INDIAN QUESTION.

5. WE SEE NO NEED FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO INVOLVE HIMSELF DEEPLY IN SPECIFIC BILATERAL ISSUES. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY NYE WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST ROUND OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON NONPROLIFERATION AND SO MR. CHRISTOPHER NEED ONLY DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE IN GENERAL TERMS --BUT HE SHOULD DO THIS IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE QUESTION. ON THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL AID, WE BELIEVE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD REAFFIRM OUR WILLINGNESS TO START AID DISCUSSIONS AND DESCRIBE THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WHICH EXISTS BOTH IN THE

ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE HILL REGARDING A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM. THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL BUT WE BELIEVE THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE IN BOTH MINISTRIES.

6. WE CONSIDER THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STOP OVER IN DELHI GIVES US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO STEP UP OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN A MEASURED WAY LOOKING TOWARD FURTHER TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE TIME OF THE UNGA AND LATER IN THE YEAR IN NEW DELHI. WE HOPE THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR MR CHRISTOPHER TO INVITE FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE TO VISIT WASHINGTON WHEN HE IS IN THE US FOR THE UNGA AND CONFIRM THAT THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT INDIA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

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